

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 11, 2026 – 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM



Keep on
DOING
the things
that you have
LEARNED
and
RECEIVED
and
HEARD
and
SEEN
in me,
and the
GOD
of
PEACE
will be with you.

PHILIPPIANS 4:9, NRSV

PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane
Winchester, VA 22602

www.opequonchurch.org

540-662-1843

office@opequonchurch.org

<i>Pastor</i>	David R. Witt
<i>Parish Associate</i>	Tracie Martin
<i>Church Office Administrator</i>	Rachel Lesink
<i>Church Finance Administrator</i>	Ken Smiy
<i>Director of Christian Education</i>	Carole Witt
<i>Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries</i>	Rebekah Witt
<i>Director of Music</i>	Susan Homan
<i>Organist/Pianist</i>	Garrett Jones
<i>Facilities Coordinator</i>	Robert Sydnor
<i>Nursery Supervisor</i>	Laurie Carver
<i>Faith Community Nurses</i>	Bill Martin, Patty Klinefelter, Mike Nutry, Pat Williams

To reach a staff member or if a pastoral concern arises, contact the church office or note who is out of the office and email one of the pastors directly and we will respond in a timely manner.

INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

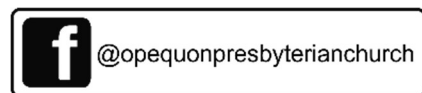
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- **We encourage you to share requests for prayer.** You may do so by completing the pink form found in the pew rack and placing it in the offering.
- **Trust your children to the care of our dedicated, loving workers!** The nursery rooms are located through the Gathering Area, down the Gallery and through the Dell Room. An usher will be happy to escort you. Our nursery ministry cares for infants and children under the age of 5.
- **Worship Bags are available for children ages 3 – kindergarten.** These bags are in the back of the Sanctuary. Please return the bag and supplies to the basket when you are leaving.
- **Restrooms and a coat rack** are located off the Gathering Area, just outside the Sanctuary.
- **Large-print hymnals, Bibles and bulletins** are available from an usher.
- **Personal hearing assistance devices** are available from an usher if you would like to use one.
- **Transportation can be provided to worship.** Call the church office before 12:00 PM on Friday.

Access our Online Giving at
www.opequonchurch.org/giving
or scan the QR code here:



Follow us on Facebook:



A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

- ☞ **Thank you for silencing your phones before we begin the Worship Service.**
- ☞ **As the music of the Prelude begins, we invite you to take a moment to quietly focus your heart and prepare your inward spirit for the worship of God.**
- ☞ Please complete the Friendship Folder and pass it along during the greeting.
- ☞ PRAYER REQUEST forms are inside the pew holders – please place in the offering plate.

† = All who are able, please stand.

Bold print = All in unison.

☞ WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME ☞

PRELUDE..... *What About Love?*

By: Brenda Russell, Allee Willis, & Stephen Bray (from THE COLOR PURPLE)

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD & THE LIGHT

†GATHERING SONG No. 701 (x2)..... *Lord, Prepare Me (Sanctuary)*

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice in the Lord always! Again, I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone, for the Lord is near.

Today we choose to rejoice. Today we choose to worship and give thanks.

Do not worry about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

We turn our hearts away from anxiety and place our trust in God's care.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

We open our minds to whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable.

Finally, whatever is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things, and the God of peace will be with you.

We come to worship God, who alone is worthy of our praise.

†OPENING HYMN No. 363 *Rejoice, the Lord Is King!*

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!

Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

**Our Savior, Jesus, reigns, the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come
and gather all the saints to their eternal home.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

(Please be seated for prayer.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Like our ancestors, we have sinned. Our ancestors exchanged the glory of God for the image of a golden calf. They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt. While our means are different, our compulsions are the same. Let us confess our brokenness, first in unison, then in personal silence, for God is merciful and just and will forgive our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you are the Lord our God, who brought us out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. And yet our trust in you is fragile, easily crushed by our bent toward indifference - the dismissal of your faithfulness as a result of our forgetfulness. Our trust is fragile, easily broken by the slightest pause – an answer to prayer not instantly given, a request for peace not immediately felt. Our trust is fragile, easily displaced by gods of our own making – the god of self-sufficiency, chased at any cost, the god of illusion, pursued in any form. Lord, have mercy on us, through Christ our Lord.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Beloved, hear the good news: Jesus Christ came to stand in the breach to reconcile us to God. We are forgiven and freed!

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 647 *Give Thanks*

***Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. [* repeat]**

***And now let the weak say, "We are strong";
let the poor say, "We are rich
because of what the Lord has done for us!" [* repeat]
Give thanks. Give thanks.**

†PASSING OF THE PEACE (Please share this prayer with those near you.)
May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

✠ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD ✠

ANTHEM..... *The Lord is My Shepherd*

By: Allen Pote

The Lord is my shepherd. Nothing shall I want. My shepherd makes me lie in fields of green, leads me beside still waters. The Lord is my shepherd, who restores my life. Leads me in paths of righteousness for the sake of the Lord's name. And even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and staff will comfort me. The Lord is my shepherd, nothing shall I want. My shepherd makes me lie in fields of green, leads me beside still waters. The Lord is my shepherd, who restores my life. Leads me in the paths of righteousness for the sake of the Lord's name. You prepare a table before me, in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy, shall follow me all the days of my life, and in the house of my God I will live forever. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Exodus 32:1-14 Pew Bible p. 69

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Philippians 4:1-9 Pew Bible p. 955

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES..... "Rejoice!"

Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

†HYMN No. 623 *I've Got Peace Like a River*

***I've got peace like a river; I've got peace like a river;**

I've got peace like a river, in my soul. [*repeat]

***I've got joy like a fountain; I've got joy like a fountain;**

I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul. [*repeat]

***I've got love like an ocean; I've got love like an ocean;**

I've got love like an ocean, in my soul. [*repeat]

SERMON..... "A Mindset of Love and Gratitude"

Pastor David Witt

✠ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ✠

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *The Road Home* Adapted by: Stephen Paulus

†THE DOXOLOGY (Hymnal No. 606) & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of compassion and generous love, we give you thanks for the riches of Earth, which sustain our lives and which you have created for our joy. We thank you for Jesus, whose life, death, resurrection, and ascension renews our strength and revives our hope. We give you thanks for the Holy Spirit, who comes among us, invites us to dine with each other and with you, and keeps us in faith. Bless these gifts for the sake of those in need and for the work of your church. In peace, we pray with thanksgiving. Amen.

PASTOR APPRECIATION MOMENTS Doug Joyner

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Hymnal p. 35, we say "debts" and "debtors" in the prayer)

✠ WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME ✠

†CLOSING HYMN No. 804.....*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*

**Rejoice, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.**

[Refrain] **Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

**With voice as full and strong as ocean's surging praise,
send forth the sturdy hymns of old,
the psalms of ancient days. [refrain]**

**Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as ye go,
from youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe: [refrain]**

**At last the march shall end; the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest. [refrain]**

**Then on, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King. [refrain]**

POPPIN' INTROIT *Popcorn* By: Paul Harris

STEWARDSHIP POPS (commentary based on KJV)

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†CLOSING RESPONSE No. 748..... *Go with Us, Lord*

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.**

†POSTLUDE

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Gary and Carolyn Rutherford with gratitude and love for the outpouring of prayers, food and many other ways of support from our Opequon Church family before, during and following Gary's surgery. You really are the "hands, heart, and feet" of Christ.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Dale & Marsha Barley	Chick Doroffee	Bonnie Triplett
Cindy Sousa	Westwood School /	Mo & Heide Mohler
Cheryl DeCeault	Waynesboro	Marge & Tim Higgins
Sara Frey	David Hofmann	Susan Arthur
Boomer & Millie	Nepal Disaster	Tammy Mowery Earhart
Kaczmarzewski	Harry Brooks	Dan Cammer
Vickie Forrest & Family	Kathy Ludwig	Middle East War
Family of David Jarvis	June Windle	Lori Jones & Stephen
Gwen Moyer	Rick Ours	Armstrong
Pat DeButts	Judy Gaines	Mike & Trish Crawford
Will St. Pierre	Jessica Brogler	JoAnne Farrell
Michelle Peterson	Bill Gesell	Judy Camper
Lisa Crudele, Jessica, &	Lorin & Bill Goulart	David Lewis
Family	Sandy Widell	All Struggling with
Carol Fries	Kraig Hawkins	Mental Illness
Joan Patton	Roger Callis	Nancy Kerns
Clayton Carbaugh	Tim & Katherine Loftis	Jewish & Muslim Victims
John Gavett	Jim Keeler	Worldwide
Al Schollenberger	Katie Happel	Cindy Corell
James (Jim) Goulding	Marcia Jaureguizar	Katie Wolf
Gary Rutherford	Lyn Warren	Ukraine
Vern Gamble	Linda Swiger	Ethiopia Church Mekane
Hazel Spriggs	Mike Shade	Jesus

❧ **THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES** ❧

Caleb Smith, Kaylynn Tavenner, Robert Littman, Cameron Lloyd,
Cameron Andrew Veach, Kayleen Paquette, Kelly Klimek, Jacob & Tiffani Peoples,
Sawyer Phillips, Joshua Blake, Max Crane, Andrew Crane, Thomas Crane,
Jacob Heavner, Samuel & Julia Phillips, Michael White, Ben Jensen, Gavin Eanes

❧ **OUR SCHOOL OF THE WEEK** ❧

Staff & Students at James Wood Middle School in Winchester, VA

SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

TODAY – October 11

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM Car Vacuuming Fundraiser – Parking Lot & Curb
8:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary
9:45 AM Faith Formation – Bageant Room & Zoom
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
12:15 PM Senior Outreach Ministry
1:30 PM Spring Arbor Worship
3:00 PM Windsong Rehearsal – Memorial Sanctuary

THIS WEEK

Monday: 5:30 PM Windsong Practice – Memorial Sanctuary
6:00 PM MOO Meal – Chick-fil-A
7:00 PM MOO Gathering – Fellowship Hall
Tuesday: 9:30 AM Tuesday Morning Mission – Bageant Room
1:00 PM Disciple Faith Formation – Bageant Room
6:00 PM GLOW Gathering – Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM Vision Team – Bageant Room
Wednesday: 12:00 PM Happy Days – Fellowship Hall
4:30 PM Logos (Theme: Logos Family Night)
7:15 PM Choir Practice – Sanctuary
Thursday: * **November Newsletter Submission Deadline** *
9:00 AM WANC Tea – Youth Spot
10:30 AM WANC Meeting – Fellowship Hall
10:30 AM Tai Chi – Memorial Sanctuary/Picnic Shelter
6:00 PM Sherando Food Pantry
Friday – Sunday: Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Retreat

NEXT SUNDAY – October 18

Blood Pressure Checks

Scriptures: Exodus 33:12-23; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Sermon: "Life as the Example of Faith"

8:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary
9:45 AM Faith Formation – Bageant Room & Zoom
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
12:30 PM Retreat Planning Team – Bageant Room
5:00 PM Young Adult Bonfire

CAR VACUUMING FUNDRAISER: Benefits Youth Mission Trips/Conferences

Sand, mud, and other debris quickly make their way into cars over the summer, but fall is here, and we all want our vehicles to be clean once again! Pull up to the church parking lot curb **TODAY, 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM**. The Youth will have shop vacs, and you'll see the satisfaction that comes from a freshly vacuumed carpet. Please remove small objects from the floor of your vehicle. Donations will support Youth Mission Trips & Camps/Conferences. Thank you!

MEN OF OPEQUON (MOO)

MOO will meet at Chick-fil-A (Pleasant Valley Rd) for dinner at **6:00 PM tomorrow**, then reconvene at **7:00 PM** at the church to hear Pastor Jonathan Boynton of Grace Lutheran Church take on the role of a Revolutionary War chaplain in costume and in dialogue. Pastor Boynton is an amateur historian and reenactor with a lifelong interest in the Revolutionary War. Since coming to Grace, he has broadened that perspective of the colonial experience, particularly the life and ministry of clergy during the Revolutionary Era. Please join us for this unique experience.

GLOW: God-loving Opequon Women

GLOW is Opequon's multi-aged Women's group that meets monthly to build friendships and enjoy heart-warming activities together. Opequon women will meet this **Tuesday, October 13**, at **6:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall for a Pumpkin Decorating Night. Ladies are asked to bring their own pumpkin (5–6-inch size works well). All decorating supplies will be provided. You may want to carve your pumpkin, draw a face on it or decorate it with fall decorations. The choice is yours! Many options available. Devotions and refreshments will also be part of the evening. All Opequon Women are invited. Bring your pumpkin and come join Opequon women for this fun evening.

HAPPY DAYS GATHERING

The monthly older adult fellowship time known as 'Happy Days' will be held this **Wednesday, October 14**, at **12:00 noon** in the Fellowship Hall beginning with a covered dish lunch. Chicken and drinks are provided. Please bring a covered dish item to share. Our guest speaker for Happy Days is Melissa Wolfe-Burke from Shenandoah University who will share about "Move U Therapy". All older adults are welcome. Come enjoy this nourishing and informative time.

THESE DAYS DAILY DEVOTIONALS

The October-December issue of *These Days* is available in the Gathering Area. This issue features writings on "A Season of Blessings", "Faithful in Urgent Times", "Looking for Signs" and "Expectations". Pick up a copy while supplies last. If you are interested in your own subscription, email customer_service@presbypub.com.

CHURCH RETREAT PLANNING TEAM

The Church Retreat Planning Team will be meeting next **Sunday, October 18**, at **12:30 PM** in the Memorial Sanctuary. We are grateful for the 13 members of this team who are working to plan for the ALL-CHURCH RETREAT to be held March 12-14, 2027, with the theme "A Time For Everything". We will look forward to sharing all the exciting plans with the congregation as we invite everyone to participate in this great event.

ANNUAL HIGHLAND FOOD PANTRY FUNDRAISER

Get your tickets today for Highland Food Pantry's annual "Men on a Mission" event on November 7. Tickets are \$30 each and provide you with unlimited access to the culinary creations of 30 local chefs. Join in the fun, sample some tasty food, and support the pantry's mission. For tickets or info, visit www.highlandpantrywinc.org or contact Barbara Rupert (barrup53@gmail.com / 540-247-6951).

TABLES & TREATS – Wednesday, October 28 (5:00 – 5:45 PM)

Last year, Mother Nature had other plans for our parking lot "Trunk & Treat" event, so we moved the fun indoors and it was wonderful! So, this year, in conjunction with Logos, we invite all to come in costume and enjoy going table-to-table, play some games, and collect treats inside. No worrying about the weather! We are looking for members to "claim" a table and decorate it with a fun theme, provide a simple activity, and hand out "treats" to the children. Contact Susan Homan (shoman@opequonchurch.org) or Wendy Wygant (wygant766@yahoo.com) to "claim" a table! Let's make this year's "Tables & Treats" the sweetest night of fall!

CHILI COOK-OFF (October 25)

Sign-up in the Gathering Area to make a pot of chili for the Cook-Off Contest or some pans of cornbread. This annual event is really fun and open to everyone! If you have any questions, contact Marj Praml (pramlmarjory550@gmail.com).

APPRECIATION FOR OUR OPEQUON PASTORS

Every so often, it's good to slow down and say thank you – and this month, that's exactly what we want to do for Pastor David Witt and Pastor Tracie Martin. Their faithful leadership, wise counsel, and constant care for our Opequon family are remarkable. We see it in the time they give, the prayers they lift, and the love they pour into this church.

Pastor David and Pastor Tracie – thank you for shepherding us so faithfully. Your wisdom has guided us, your honesty has challenged us, and your example of faith has encouraged us more than words can say. May God continue to pour out His grace on you, your families, and the ministry He's entrusted to you. We are so grateful for you both!

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

8:30 AM Worship

Liturgist: Rebecca DesMarias

Beadle: Carroll Youngblood

Door Greeters: Pam Olsen, Gretchen Rusch, Dave Rusch

Ushers: Mike Wygant, Wendy Wygant, Norie Noll, Richard DeHaven, London Bender, Claire Gaines, Ethan Jordan

Acolyte: London Bender

Building Steward: Ben Brooks

11:00 AM Worship

Liturgist: Kyle Homan

Beadle: Judy Moody

Door Greeters: Tiny Sizemore, Bonnie Pitzer

Ushers: Marj Praml, Kyle Homan, Rick Praml, Jasper Kirby-Yoder, Bo Weber

Acolyte: Jasper Kirby-Yoder

Livestream: Susan Ritter, Sheyenne Ervin

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

✂ How did the music today witness to joy, love, and gratitude amid the varied experiences and situations of life?

Notes on Today's Prayers

✂ Where and for whom do I need to focus my prayers this week?

Notes on Today's Conversation with All Ages

✂ How will you rejoice in the Lord this week?

Notes on Today's Scripture & Sermon

✂ What caused the Israelites to go astray? What is hard and disturbing about their story? What in their story is our story?

✂ When have you or has our church gotten it wrong, forgetting and forming idols?

✂ What does the reality of rejoicing always in all situations look like in your life?

✂ What things will you think about this week?

✂ How will you start living the life you imagine and these things that you think about?

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A banner image featuring a pile of white popcorn on a red background. On the left, a yellow cloud-like shape contains the text 'Member Engagement'. On the right, the text 'The 2027 Stewardship Campaign' is displayed in white.

Member Engagement

The 2027 Stewardship Campaign

The flavor of popcorn for this week is caramel. Caramel corn is like "Christian Member Engagement" because it is **sweet, multi layered, transformative, and communal** – a sweet, crunchy metaphor for how faith is nourished, bound together, and shared in the life of our church. Just as the candy's layers and sweetness depend on each other, the health of OPC depends on the interplay of shared faith, mutual service, and the joy of fellowship. Taste and see...

HOW TO MAKE CARAMEL CORN

Ingredients:

- ▶ **Popped Popcorn** – 4-6 quarts of plain popped popcorn
- ▶ **Brown Sugar** – 2 cups of brown sugar
- ▶ **Butter** – 1 cup (two sticks) of salted butter (enriches/caramelizes the cooked sugar)
- ▶ **Corn Syrup** – ½ cup of light corn syrup (keeps the caramel soft and stretchy)
- ▶ **Vanilla Extract** – 1 teaspoon
- ▶ **Baking Soda** – 1 teaspoon

Directions:

1. PREP your popcorn.
2. PREHEAT your oven to 250°F and place your popped popcorn in a large bowl.
3. MAKE the caramel – In a large saucepan, stir together the brown sugar, butter, and corn syrup. Bring the mixture to a boil over medium heat while stirring constantly; then continue to boil the caramel for five minutes, stirring occasionally.
 - ♦ *TIP: When making the caramel, don't walk away or your caramel could burn or bubble over.*
4. REMOVE the saucepan from the heat so it doesn't burn.
5. STIR in the vanilla and baking soda; mix well.
 - ♦ *TIP: The caramel sauce will bubble up and steam when the baking soda is added, be careful! Those bubbles will retain a little moisture when cooled and ensure that your caramel corn is crisp—but not hard like toffee.*
6. POUR the caramel over the popped popcorn and stir until well-coated.
7. POUR caramel-covered popcorn into two greased 13×9-inch or larger baking pans.
8. BAKE (uncovered) for 45 minutes, stirring every 15 minutes.
9. COOL the caramel corn completely at room temperature and then ENJOY!